

Beesia.

A New Genus of Ranunculaceae from Burma and Yunnan.

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With Plate CXLVIII.

Beesia, Balf. fil. et W. W. Sm. Genus novum Ranunculacearum.

Genus ex affinitate *Glaucidii* et *Hydrastidis*; foliis omnibus radicalibus cordatis crenatis nec partitis nec lobatis, floribus racemosis nec solitariis, carpellis solitariis distinguendum.

Herba mediocris rhizomate sympodiali. Folia plura, omnia radicalia longe petiolata alte cordata. Inflorescentia racemosa scapo longo nudo suffulta. Involucrum o. Bractee bracteolaeque filiformes. Sepala 4-5, inconspicua alba. Petala o. Stamina 20-25 filamentis erectis longiusculis antheris minimis. Carpellum solitarium receptaculo parvo insertum pluriovulatum ovulis biseriatis suturae ventrali affixis. Fructus oligospermus maturitate folliculatim dehiscens. Semina ovoidea testa rugosula. Species unica in Burma septentrionali finibus chinensibus proxima atque in provincia chinensi Yunnan crescens.

Beesia cordata, Balf. fil. et W. W. Sm. Sp. nov.

Planta herbacea cum inflorescentia circ. 30-40 cm. alta; rhizoma longum sat crassum radicibus fibrosis numerosis praeditum apicem versus squamis paucis ovatis vel lanceolatis 1-2.5 cm. longis membranaceis cinctum. Folia 3-5, petiolo 15-20 cm. longo basi paulo dilatato glabro praedita; lamina 9-16 cm. longa, 6-16 cm. lata, cordiformis vel reniformis apice \pm acuminata vel rotundata basi altius cordata lobis rotundatis approximatis vel \pm remotis, margine regulariter latiuscule crenata crenaturis medio indurato-apiculatis, in sicco tenuiter membranacea, utrinque glabra, supra viridis subtus pallidior nervis 5-7 basi arcuatim divergentibus. Scapus solitarius usque ad 40 cm. altus erectus nudus gracilis infra glaber supra minute

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dense pubescens. Inflorescentia 10–20 cm. longa racemosa simplex vel saepius basi ramosa 10–30-flora minute fulvo-pubescens; flores singulatim vel 2–4 in cymas brevissime pedunculatas dispositi, pedicellis 5–10 mm. longis suffulti, bractea 3–8 mm. longa bracteolisque circ. 3 mm. longis filiformibus apice glandulosis praediti. Sepala 4–5, aestivatione imbricata patentia circ. 4–5 mm. longa medio 2–3 mm. lata ovato-lanceolata apiculata basi late cuneata exunguiculata glabra alba. Petala 0. Stamina 20–25 erecta calycem aequantia filamentis gracillimis 4–5 mm. longis antheris minimis 0.5 mm. longis rimis lateralibus dehiscentibus. Carpellum solitarium 4–5 mm. longum erga basin minute pubescens, forma simili gruis capiti; stylus circ. 2 mm. longus rectus vel paululo deflexus, stigmate truncatulo; ovula 8–10 biseriata suturae ventrali affixa. Folliculus fere maturus circ. 8 mm. longus (stylo persistente excluso) ab apice dehiscens membranaceus venis 6–8 oblique transversis notatus. Semina 4 vel plura ± 1.5 mm. longa ovoidea brunnea rugis oblique transversis, collari minimo lobatulo circa hilum praedita.

“Northern Burma: below Feng-shui-ling Camp, near Chino-Burmese frontier. Amongst undergrowth of rain-forest in deep shade, wet clayey soil at 9000 ft. altitude. Flowers white. June 1914.” F. Kingdon Ward. No. 1660.

“Yunnan, West China. Plant of 18–20 inches. Flowers creamy white. Open moist pasture on the margins of thickets on the Kari Pass, Mekong-Yangtze divide. Lat. $27^{\circ} 40' N$. Alt. 9000–10,000 ft. Aug. 1914.” G. Forrest. No. 12,955.

This new genus is akin to the Japanese genus *Glaucidium* and to the Japanese and American *Hydrastis*. It differs in the leaves being all radical, cordate in shape with very regular crenations but without lobing, in the racemose inflorescence, and the solitary carpels. The generic name is formed from the title of the horticultural firm Bees, Ltd., whose enterprise in the botanical exploration of China, Burma, and the Himalayas is well known.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE CXLVIII.

Illustrating Professor Bayley Balfour and Mr. W. W. Smith's paper on *Beesia*.

(The plate is taken from a photograph by Mr. Robert M. Adam.)

PLATE CXLVIII.—*Beesia cordata*, Balf. fil. et W. W. Sm.



BEESIA CORDATA, BALF. FIL. ET W. W. SM.